

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: In addition to the remarks of record, the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest the claimed method of marking an alcoholic beverage or perfume with a non-isotopic ion that is contained in standard seawater as defined by the original specification where the ion is initially present in the beverage or perfume with an initial concentration of below 50ppm and the beverage or perfume is subsequently marked by adding the ion in a concentration of at least of factor of 3 higher than the initial ion concentration.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LYLE ALEXANDER whose telephone number is (571)272-1254. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on 571-272-1269. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1773

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Lyle Alexander/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1773